

U.S.S. Utah Ship's Bell Goes to NROTC Unit

Utah plays a very definite role in the history of the United States Navy. Symbolic of this role is a 2,000-pound bell from the USS Utah, a battleship, donated to the new marine mu-

ACCORDING to Major Donald L. Gaut, U.S. Marines, assistant professor of Naval Science, the ship's bell will be an integral part of the Naval History Museum, which will promote Utah's influence in the country's rise to sea power. It will be mounted on an appropriate monument-type base outside the Naval Science Building eventually, he said.

Salvaged from the battered hulk of the USS Utah, which was a victim of the Pearl Harbor sneak attack in 1941, the brass bell had been a fixture on the ship since its 1909 construction. The Japanese mistakenly believed the ship to be battle-ready while it was stationed at the end of battleship row off Ford's Island in Pearl Harbor. Actually, Major Gaut noted, it

was serving as a research laboratory at the time.

IN 1961, Senator Wallace F. Bennett, R-Utah, negotiated a transfer of the bell to Utah when it was placed in the Utah State Historical Society. Now it will be put on display at the new museum where it can be more appropriately shown with related materials, said Dr. Everett L. Cooley, Director of the Utah State Museum of Natural History.

The new marine museum, under the direction of Major Gaut, has all ready received many important naval items from various organizations. A portrait of the cruiser USS Salt Lake City was loaned by the Salt Lake City Corporation. It had previously adorned Mayor J. Bracken Lee's office. The ship's plaque bearing the many campaigns and battles in which it had participated is also on display.

THE ENTIRE silver service from the Salt Lake has also been donated. The cruiser sank after participating in the 1948 Bikini Atoll atomic tests.

A large model of the USS Bearsarge, a 1900 battleship, along with a wide variety of other model ships show the Navy's historical development. World War II naval equipment, such as a torpedo and an anchor have also been put on display.

Along with the "Utah's" bell, said Major Gaut, a Congressional Medal of Honor of Chief Petty Officer Peter Tomich, who died at his post during the Pearl Harbor bombing, will be loaned from the Society. Chief Tomich, having no relatives, was adopted by Utah in 1947 in order to provide for the preservation of his citation, medal, and memory.



Donated by the Utah State Historical Society, the 2,000-pound U.S.S. Utah's brass bell is part of the new marine museum.